(*Rs. crores*)

	Exports	Imports	India's Trade deficit
1984-85	15.04	30.27	15.23
1985-86*	19.67	64.76	45.09
1986-87* (April-Sept.)	10.75	32.02	21.27

*Provisional.

India's trade deficit with Austria in the first six months of 1986-87 is estimated to be about Rs. 21.27 crores.

(c) At the last meeting of the Indo-Austrian Joint Commission held in November, 1986, it was felt that there were possibilities of increasing exports to Austria of engineering goods, chemicals and petro-chemicals, alumina and jewellery for which trade promotion programmes like exchange of business delegations and marketing information are being pursued.

Danger to the ecology of Himalayan system

2203. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether apprehensions were raised by scientists and others that the new projects—atomic, industrial and energy—coming up in the Northern States might endanger the ecology of the Himalayan system;

(b) if so, whether this matter has been examined from all aspects; and

(c) whether any remedial action to preserve the environment is being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) New projects anywhere can endanger the ecology unless due care is taken in sitting the projects outside ecologically sensitive areas and adequate preventive and mitigative measures to control pollution are taken.

(b) and (c) After examining all the aspects, the remedial steps taken to preserve the ecological balance of the Himalayas include:

—extensive afforestation, ban on green felling above 1000 metres;

—incorporating environmental control measures in development projects; and

—promotion of non-polluting industries only.

TNV insurgencies

2204. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the T.N.V. insurgents are being provided sanctuaries across the border in Bangladesh;

(b) whether Government have since taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, what is the response of Bangladesh Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government has received information that T.N.V. extremists have training facilities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

(b) and (c) Government has brought to the notice of the Government of Bangladesh that these insurgents are operating from their territory and have requested the Government of Bangladesh to prevent such operations. That Government has, however, consistently denied that training camps or any other facilities for the T.N.V. exist on their territory.

Prisoners of Operation Blue Star

2205. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons were taken on prisoners from the Golden Temple Complex in Amritsar during Operation Blue Star in June, 1984;

(b) how many out of them have since been released;

(c) how many are still in the custody and where they are lodged; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken against those still in custody and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Out of 1592 persons apprehended in Golden Temple area during Operation Blue Star, 365 are in custody and are lodged in Jodhpur jail. The case registered against them is under trial in the Additional Special Court at Jodhpur.

Target of tree planting

2206. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target of tree planting for the year 1986-87 and what is the target for the year 1987-88;

(b) whether the target fixed for 1986-87 is likely to be achieved; and

(c) what is the rate of survival of trees in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) The target of tree planting in the country for the year 1986-87 is 342.84 crore seedlings. The target for 1987-88 is tentatively fixed at 460 crore seedlings.

(b) Yes. Sir. The target has alreay been exceeded. The achievement to end of January, 1987 is 344.40 crores seedlings.

(c) A statement indicating survival percentages based on available information is annexed. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 104]. It may be added that the monitoring has not been systematic or adequately programmed. Efforts to streamline arrangements in this behalf are on hand.

Swiss citizenship for Indian Nationals

2207. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a news report about an Indian national who has obtained the rare feat of Swiss Citizenship in record time as reported in the 'Sunday Mail' of 1—7 February, 1987;

(b) whether Government have entered into a new protocol or agreement with the Government of Switzerland for grant of citizenship to Indians; and